

PRESS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT IN YAVAPAI COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2020

PRECAUTIONARY COVID-19 TESTING TO TAKE PLACE AT JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

On Friday, May 1, 2020 it was reported to the staff at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) that there had been an outbreak of COVID-19 at the Mingus Mountain Academy in Yavapai County. One of the students from the Mingus Mountain Academy had been in the JJC facility on April 9, 2020 and another student on April 16, 2020.

As a result of the students and staff from Mingus Mountain Academy being present at the JJC during the month of April, several Juvenile Probation and Superior Court employees have since been tested for COVID-19 at the recommendation of the County Epidemiologist, Steven Everett. Of the nine Juvenile Probation Officers who have already tested, eight results have come back negative. The Probation Officer who tested positive has been working intermittently in the office and in the field. One Detention Officer assigned to the control room tested positive but has had minimal contact with the juveniles in the Detention Center but did have sporadic contact with other staff.

Out of an abundance of caution and to prevent any potential further spread, Juvenile Court Director Gay Lockling made arrangements for all juveniles in the Detention Center to be tested by Wexford on May 7, 2020. Additionally, Spectrum Health Care will be on site this afternoon between 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to offer COVID-19 testing to all staff who have worked at the JJC over the last several weeks. The testing will be made available to all Juvenile Probation and Detention Officers, teachers, Court Security Officers, Superior Court support staff, County Facilities staff and volunteers. While the results of the tests are pending, staff at the JJC will continue to implement safe and appropriate sanitization procedures as recommended by the CDC.

While the thought of COVID-19 spreading through the community may understandably spark a bit of concern, the staff at Juvenile Probation and Superior Court remain in good spirits and are steadfast in their dedication to the care and health of the juveniles under their supervision.